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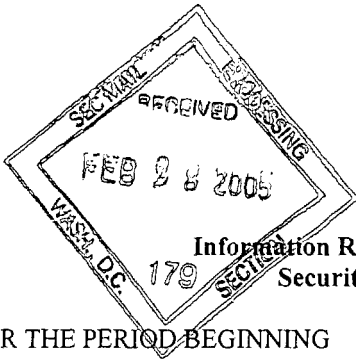
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ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT
FORM X-17A-5
PART III

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3/8

SEC FILE NUMBER
8-66389

FACING PAGE

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING 01/01/04 AND ENDING 12/31/04
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

A. REGISTRANT IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF BROKER-DEALER:

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)

100 Summer Street, Suite 1500

(No. and Street)

Boston MA 02110
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

NAME AND TELEPHONE OF PERSON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPORT

Robert Bucher

614-470-8661

(Area Code - Telephone No.)

B. ACCOUNTANT IDENTIFICATION

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT whose opinion is contained in this Report*

PricewaterhouseCoopers

(Name - if individual, state last, first, middle name)

PROCESSED

MAR 14 2005

THOMSON
FINANCIAL

100 East Broad Street Columbus OH 43215
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

CHECK ONE:

- ☒ Certified Public Accountant
☐ Public Accountant
☐ Accountant not resident in United States or any of its possessions.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See section 240.17a-5(e)(2).

SEC 1410 (3-91)

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contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays
a currently valid OMB control number.

11-20-11

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

I, Robert Bucher, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the accompanying financial statement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Mercantile Investment Services, Inc., as of December 31, 2004, are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that neither the company nor any partner, proprietor, principal officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account classified solely as that of a customer, except as follows:



DIANE R. WENDEL BAKER
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 08-20-06

Robert Bucher
Signature

Financial and Operations Principal
Title

Diane R. Wendel Baker
Notary Public

This report** contains (check all applicable boxes):

- ☒ (a) Facing page.
- ☒ (b) Statement of Financial Condition.
- ☒ (c) Statement of Income (Loss).
- ☐ (d) Statement of Changes in Financial Condition.
- ☒ (e) Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity or Partners' or Sole Proprietor's Capital
- ☐ (f) Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated to Claims of Creditors
- ☒ (g) Computation of Net Capital
- ☒ (h) Computation for Determination of Reserve Requirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
- ☒ (i) Information Relating to the Possession or Control Requirements Under Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (j) A Reconciliation, including appropriate explanations, or the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-1 and the Computation for Determination of the Reserve Requirements Under Exhibit A of Rule 15c3-3.
- ☐ (k) A Reconciliation between Audited and Unaudited Statement of Financial Condition with respect to methods of consolidation.
- ☒ (l) An Oath or Affirmation.
- ☐ (m) A Copy of the SIPC Supplemental Form.
- ☒ (n) A report describing any material inadequacies found to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.
- ☒ (o) Statement of Cash Flows.

**For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

**Financial Statements and
Supplementary Information
December 31, 2004**

Report of Independent Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
100 East Broad Street, Suite 2100
Columbus OH 43215
Telephone (614) 225 8700
Facsimile (614) 224 1044

To the Board of Directors and Stockholder of
Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of financial condition and the related statements of operations, of changes in stockholder's equity and of cash flows present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Mercantile Investment Services, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.) (the "Company") at December 31, 2004, and the results of its operations, changes in its stockholder's equity and its cash flows for the period January 28, 2004 through December 31, 2004, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit of these statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The Company is a member of a group of affiliated companies and, as disclosed in the financial statements, has extensive transactions and relationships with its affiliates. Because of these relationships, it is possible that the terms of these transactions are not the same as those that would result from transactions among unrelated parties.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules on pages 8 and 9 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are supplementary information required by Rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

February 25, 2005

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.
(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)
Statement of Financial Condition
December 31, 2004

Assets

Cash	\$ 300,000
Receivable from affiliate	18,585
Distribution fees receivable	53,634
Prepaid expenses	24,968
Commissions receivable	7,351
Total assets	<u>\$ 404,538</u>

Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity

Liabilities

Distribution fees payable	\$ 44,039
Accrued other expenses	2,861
Total liabilities	<u>46,900</u>

Stockholder's equity

Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 1,000 shares authorized; 100 shares issued and outstanding	1
Additional paid-in capital	299,999
Retained earnings	57,638
Total stockholder's equity	<u>357,638</u>
Total liabilities and stockholder's equity	<u>\$ 404,538</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

Statement of Operations

For the period January 28, 2004 through December 31, 2004

Revenue

Distribution fees	\$ 399,650
Commissions	38,987
Other income	29,310
Total revenue	<u>467,947</u>

Expenses

Distribution expense	331,038
Administrative service fee to affiliate	2,933
Intangibles tax	2,861
Other expenses	44,040
Total expenses	<u>380,872</u>

Income before taxes	87,075
Income taxes	29,437
Net income	<u>\$ 57,638</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

Statement of Changes in Stockholder's Equity

For the period January 28, 2004 through December 31, 2004

	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Additional Paid-In Capital</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Total Stockholder's Equity</u>
Balances at January 28, 2004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contribution from parent	1	299,999	-	300,000
Net income	-	-	57,638	57,638
Balances at December 31, 2004	<u>\$ 1</u>	<u>\$ 299,999</u>	<u>\$ 57,638</u>	<u>\$ 357,638</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the period January 28, 2004 through December 31, 2004

Cash flows from operating activities

Net income	\$ 57,638
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities	
Increase in receivable from affiliate	(18,585)
Increase in distribution fees receivable	(53,634)
Increase in prepaid expenses	(24,968)
Increase in commissions receivable	(7,351)
Increase in distribution fees payable	44,039
Increase in accrued other expenses	2,861
Net cash provided by operating activities	-

Cash flows from financing activities

Capital contribution from parent	300,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	300,000
Net increase in cash	300,000

Cash at beginning of year	-
Cash at end of year	\$ 300,000

Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information

Cash paid during the year for income taxes	\$ -
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.
(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004

1. Organization

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc. (the "Company") is a wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc. ("BISYS"). The Company is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as a broker-dealer and is a member of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. ("NASD").

Effective May 13, 2004, the Company became the distributor and principal underwriter of The Mercantile Funds (the "Funds") and, as a result, substantially all of the Company's revenues are earned from the Funds. The Company receives distribution fees from these Funds.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

Cash

The Company maintains cash deposits in banks which, from time to time, exceed the amount of deposit insurance available. Management periodically assesses the financial condition of the institutions and believes that any potential credit loss is minimal.

Revenue Recognition

Distribution fees represent fees paid by the Funds pursuant to rule 12b-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 and the distribution agreement between the Funds and the Company. Fees earned by the Company are principally determined based on average daily net assets of the Funds and are accrued monthly. By contractual agreements, the Company retains a portion of these fees as compensation.

Commissions are based on a percentage of the value of the shares distributed.

Distribution Expense

Distribution expense represents fees paid to other broker-dealers which originally sold the Funds and generated the distribution fee revenue. Distribution fees not paid to selling brokers are used to support other distribution related activities.

Income Taxes

BISYS and its affiliates file a consolidated federal income tax return that includes the Company. BISYS apportions income tax expense or benefit among all the affiliates based on their taxable income, using corporate statutory rates adjusted for the effect of temporary differences of the Company.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004

3. Net Capital Requirement

As a registered broker-dealer engaged in the sale of redeemable shares of registered investment companies and certain other share accounts, the Company is subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Uniform Net Capital Rule 15c3-1 (the "Rule"), which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital, and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, shall not exceed 8 to 1. At December 31, 2004, the Company had net capital under the Rule of \$260,451, which was \$254,589 in excess of its minimum required net capital of \$5,862. The Company's ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital at December 31, 2004 was .18 to 1.

4. Regulatory Compliance

The Company has claimed exemption from the provisions of SEC Rule 15c3-3 under Subparagraph (k)(1)—all customer transactions are limited to the sale and redemption of redeemable securities of registered investment companies and the Company does not handle customer funds. As such, the Company is not required to maintain funds in segregation.

5. Related-Party Transactions

During the period January 28, 2004 through December 31, 2004, BISYS provided various services to the Company, such as use of office facilities, equipment, personnel and other administrative services. BISYS charges the Company an administrative service fee for these services designed to cover the costs of providing such services. The administrative service fee would not necessarily be the same if an unrelated party provided these services to the Company.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

**Supplemental Schedule—Computation of Net Capital Under Securities and
Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-1
December 31, 2004**

Total stockholder's equity from statement of financial condition		\$	357,638
Deduct nonallowable assets			
Receivable from affiliates	\$	18,585	
Distribution fees receivable		53,634	
Prepaid expenses		24,968	97,187
Net capital			<u>260,451</u>
Net capital requirement (greater of 12 1/2 percent of aggregate indebtedness or \$5,000)			<u>5,862</u>
Excess net capital		\$	<u>254,589</u>
Total aggregate indebtedness		\$	<u>46,900</u>
Percentage of aggregate indebtedness to net capital			<u>18%</u>

Statement Pursuant to Paragraph (d)(4) of Rule 17a-5

There are no material differences between the net capital as shown above and the corresponding computation prepared by the Company for inclusion in its unaudited Part II A FOCUS Report filing at December 31, 2004.

Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

(A wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.)

**Supplemental Schedule—Determination of Reserve Requirements and
Information Relating to Possession or Control Requirements Under Securities
and Exchange Commission Rule 15c3-3**

December 31, 2004

The Company claims exemption from the provisions of Rule 15c3-3 under Subparagraph (k)(1)—all customer transactions are limited to the sale and redemption of redeemable securities of registered investment companies and the Company does not handle customer funds.

**Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control Pursuant to
Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 17a-5**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholder of
Mercantile Investment Services, Inc.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements and supplemental schedules of Mercantile Investment Services, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of The BISYS Group, Inc.) (the "Company") for the period January 28, 2004 through December 31, 2004, we considered its internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Also, as required by Rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), we have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company, including tests of compliance with such practices and procedures, that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in Rule 17a-5(g), in the following:

1. Making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness and net capital under Rule 17a-3(a)(11); and
2. Determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of Rule 15c3-3.

Because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities, we did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

1. Making the quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons, and the recordation of differences required by Rule 17a-13;
2. Complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and
3. Obtaining and maintaining physical possession or control of all fully paid and excess margin securities of customers as required by Rule 15c3-3.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of control and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph, and to assess

whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal control and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, errors or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of internal control to future periods is subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.

Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving internal control, including procedures for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2004 to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, the SEC, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., and other regulatory agencies that rely on Rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP

February 25, 2005